under his Ministry, the details of their salaries and other allowances in foreign exchange paid annually by his Ministry; and

(e) what is the extent of new export business generated by these office in last one year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No new office of Boards/Institutions or other bodies of the Ministry of Commerce were opened abroad during June 1991 to June 1992.

(b) and (c) A total number of 11 officers/other employees were sent abroad during June 1991 to June 1992 for postings in old offices and 13 officers/other employees were asked to return to India on transfer/completion of tenure.

(d) and (e) The details of staff strength, expenses on salaries and allowances and the export business generated by various offices under Ministry of Commerce are as under:

Name of Office	Total staff abroad	Expenses incurred on pay & allowances in 1991-92	Export business generated during 1991-92
a			
India Trade Centre (Brussels)	11	Belgian Francs 67.51 lakhs	This office has been set up as a promotional agency lending support to Indian exporters
Marine Products Export Development Authority:			
(i) Tokyo	2	Yen 52.10 lakhs;	Rs. 45.32 crores.
(ii) New York;	2	US $34,629	
Tea Board			
(i) London	4	£41,330	
(ii) New York	2	US£ 75,086	21.56 Million kgs
(iii) Dubai	5	DH 2,82,413	
(iv) Brussels	2	Belgian Francs 22,59,324	

New contracts for export of iron ore

3676. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far taken any decision to discontinue the export of iron ore, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government propose to enter into any new contracts for export of iron ore during the current financial year, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have decided to formulate a new scheme relating to development of iron ore based industries in this country, if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Iron ore exports are continuing as per the existing contracts. Iron ore surplus to domestic requirements is proposed to be allowed for export and new contracts can be entered into by the MMTC and

other shippers as per the current Export and Import Policy.

(c) Under the Liberalised Industrial Policy, several critical industries including iron ore based industries are being encouraged by Government.

Scheme for increase in export of goods and services

3677. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been prepared to increase the scope of Indian goods and services in foreign countries,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) to (c) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July 1991 armed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. Rupee has been made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange. These steps have been further consolidated in the new Export Import Policy which, *inter-alia* aims to promote productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indan industry and thereby enhance its export capabilities.

Special import licences for import of bulk of items

3678. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated and issued guidelines for issue of special import licences in the wake of liberalisation of import of bulk of items;

(b) if so, what are the details of the new guidelines; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The detailed guidelines are being worked out and will be announced separately.

Export of diamonds and other jewellery

3679. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of diamonds and other jewellery has considerably declined during 1991-92 as compared to 1989-90;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the position of diamond and other jewellery exports during the current financial year;

(d) what is the share of Madhya Pradesh in exporting diamonds and other jewellery during the last three years; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to improve the export of diamonds and other jewellery from the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) While there is no decline in the export of diamond and jewellery during 1991-92 as compared to 1989-90 in rupee terms there is a decline in US dollar terms only in Diamonds. The details are:

Item	1989-90		1991-92	
	Rs. Cr.	US$ Mil	Rs. Cr.	US$ Mil.
Diamonds	4971.93	2986.28	6162.64	2499.85
Jewellery	296.44	178.04	766.88	311.07

(Source:GJEPC)

(Exchange Rate: US$ 1 = Rs. 16.6492 (1989-90) & Rs. 24.6520 (1991-92)